

Isabel, wife of John Urquhart, Colonel in the Swedish Service

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In the December 2007 issue of *The Scottish Genealogist*¹ Dr. Malinovskii published an article entitled “A Scottish Branch of Urquharts in the Loewenwolde Family Tree”. In this article, he reported the Scottish lineage of two brothers, Counts Carl Gustav Löwenwolde (d. 1735) and Gustav Reinhold Löwenwolde (1693–1758), through John Urquhart² (1618–1656) of the Urquharts of Cromarty, Hereditary Sheriffs of Cromarty.

Based on the document “*Stammbaum Carl Gustavs Grafen von Löwenwolde*”³ included in “*Sammlung verschiedner Lieflandischer Monumente*”⁴ by J. K. Brotze (1742–1823), a renowned artist, John Urquhart’s wife was identified as Isabella Kenmure-Gordon and her Gordon lineage was given. Subsequently, a lineage from the Swedish Archives has come to light which correctly identifies Isabel as the daughter of William Kinninmond of Fife⁵. In a book about the British community in Sweden in the 17th Century, she was further identified as the sister of Patrick Kinninmond (d. 1645) and Thomas Kinninmond (d. 1657/8), and the niece of Colonel John Kinninmond (1608–1656), all officers in the Swedish service and also Swedish nobles⁶. Thomas Kinninmond was the commanding officer of John Urquhart⁷, which evidently led to the marriage of Isabel and John.

The Kinninmonds of Fife were identified as having “a remarkable record for a family of no more than knightly rank”⁸ because there were three Kinninmond bishops (two of Aberdeen and one of Brechin) in the 14th Century and three bishops in the 12th and early 13th Centuries, who, if not Kinninmonds, were certainly relatives. The Kinninmonds were not only important clerics; but they also served in influential positions in the Church such as signatories of ecclesiastical charters⁹ and stewards of the extensive estates of the Bishops of St. Andrews in Fife¹⁰. The male line of the Chief of Clan Kinninmond ended in the 15th Century when the sole heir married Sir William Murray of Melgund¹¹.

¹Vol. LIV, No. 4, pp. 155–165, Dec. 2007.

²John Urquhart is a direct descendant of Alexander Urquhart of Cromarty (1475–1504), Sixth Chief of Clan Urquhart.

³In English: “*Pedigree of Carl Gustav Count von Löwenwolde*”.

⁴In English: “*A Collection of Diverse Livonian Documents*”.

⁵Swedish Noble Family Lineage No. 423 (see also No. 505 and No. 971) published in: G. Elgenstierna, *Den introducerade svenska adelns ättartavlor med tillägg och rättelser*, 9 vols. (1925–36), vol. 4.

⁶Mary Elizabeth Ailes, *Military Migration and State Formation pp. 61–62*. Important information may be found also in other sources, e.g.: *Genealogical collections concerning families in Scotland, made by Walter Macfarlane, 1750–1751*, Volume 2, Pages 531–548.

⁷Ailes, op. cit., p. 62.

⁸Bruce A. McAndrew, *Scotland’s historic heraldry*, p. 259.

⁹In: Barrow, G. W. S. (1988), *Robert Bruce & The Community of the Realm of Scotland* (3rd ed.), Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, ISBN 0-85224-539-4, p. 308, discussed is the case for Alexander Kinninmond (bishop of Aberdeen 1329–1344) being the author of the famous “Declaration of Arbroath”.

¹⁰McAndrew, op. cit., p. 261.

¹¹Ibid.